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United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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Former Deputy Dispatcher Sentenced for Possession of Child Pornography

BISMARCK - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 12, 2010, **Wayne A. Freidig**, 55, of Center, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Freidig pleaded guilty to the charge on March 9, 2010.

Judge Hovland sentenced Freidig to four years in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. As a condition of supervised release, Freidig must reside at a residential re-entry center for one year following his incarceration. Freidig was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and must register as a sex offender. Freidig was also ordered to forfeit his computer.

Freidig was a deputy dispatcher with the McLean County Sheriff's Office. On June 17, 2008, a picture depicting child pornography was found on one of the dispatch computers. Further investigation revealed that the picture was emailed from an email address belonging to Freidig, and the email was accessed on the dispatch computer by Freidig during his work hours. Law enforcement personnel approached Freidig, and he agreed to a search of his home computer.

Freidig was escorted home and turned over his computer to deputies. Later, Freidig admitted to the McLean County Sheriff that he had child pornography on his work and home computers. Freidig then resigned from his dispatch position. Two videos and 16 still images involving child pornography were found on Freidig's home computer.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, McLean County Sheriff's Office and North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

The U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted this case under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative.

Assistant United States Attorney Gary Delorme prosecuted the case.

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